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**(54) FGFR3 AS MARKER FOR MESENCHYMAL  
SKELETAL PROGENITOR CELL**

**(57) Abstract:**

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide a novel marker for mesenchymal skeletal progenitor cells.

**SOLUTION:** The fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3) as a new marker for mesenchymal skeletal progenitor cells is provided. By utilizing this new marker it was possible both to identify and locate mesenchymal skeletal progenitor cells in a tissue, as well

as to obtain a substantially pure culture of such cells. The pure culture of the mesenchymal skeletal progenitor cells may be used, optionally after various manipulations ex vivo, as an active ingredient in pharmaceutical compositions or implants for the purpose of bone and/or cartilage repair. FGFR3 may also be used as a marker for the identification and the localization of cartilage- and bone-derived tumors. Agents capable of binding to FGFR3 may also be used for targeting cytotoxic factors to cartilage- and bone-derived tumors.

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